

Preliminary Amendment
USSN 10/052,305
June 24, 2004
Page 3

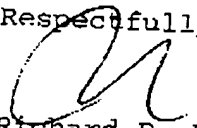
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The introductory portion of the specification has been amended to identify a U.S. patent and a U.S. patent application to which the subject matter of the present application is related. This patent is being brought to the attention of the Examiner, pursuant to MPEP § 2004, paragraph 9. However, the citation of these documents should not be construed as an admission that the disclosures of these patent documents are related to the patentability of the present application. The Applicant submits that no new matter is introduced by this preliminary amendment, and, therefore, the amendment may be properly entered.

Amendment of the subject application is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence
is being transmitted via facsimile to the
USPTO at facsimile number
(703) 872-9306
on June 24, 2004 by Suzanne Johnston.

Respectfully submitted,


Richard P. Berg
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 28,145

LADAS & PARRY
5670 Wilshire Boulevard,
Suite 2100
Los Angeles, CA 90036
(323) 934-2300